

The following are opening paragraphs and thesis statements for responses to the 2015 Unit 3 Compare/Contrast essay prompts.

Directions: First: Read the following statements and decide if they have all of the components to score the points for a valid thesis statement. Write Yes or No in the margin next to each.

Second: For each of the opening statements, highlight the following information (if it is a NO, you may still be able to find similarities and differences....so please still highlight certain portions of them)

1. Topic sentence (this can also include referring back to the time period and parts of the questions) – PINK
2. Thesis - YELLOW (please underline or put brackets around it)
3. Similarities/Comparisons – Orange
4. Differences/Contrasts - Green
5. Specific evidence or Examples provided – Purple (you may need to underline them in purple)
6. Put a black (or dark colored) CIRCLE around any phrases used to show COMPARISONS
7. Put a black (or dark colored) SQUARE around any phrases used to show CONTRASTS

Prompt: Analyze similarities and differences in TWO of the following trade networks in the period 600-1450 CE. Your response may include examples of biological, commercial or cultural exchanges.

- Indian Ocean
- Silk Roads
- Trans-Sahara

1. From 600 CE to 1450 CE, people on both the Indian Ocean trade routes and the Silk Roads transferred luxury commodities and used new technologies to make trade more efficient, However, the Indian Ocean Trade Route was a primarily overseas trade route whereas the Silk Roads were overland.

2. In both the Trans-Saharan trade network and Indian Ocean Trade Network between 600 CE-1450CE, trade increased in volume due to the spread of Islam as a unifying factor in both regions and an increasing demand for luxury goods. The valuable commodities in both these regions were different based on their resources, gold and salt in the trans-Saharan network and spices and cotton from India in the Indian Ocean Network. Although they had different natural boundaries (the ocean in the IOTN and the desert in the Trans-Saharan) the development and spread of new technology in both regions greatly enhanced and sped up the efficiency of trade (The compass and better understanding of monsoon winds in the IOTN and the domestication of the Camel in the trans-Saharan)

3. The most advanced and intricate trade networks from 600 CE to 1450 CE were the Indian Ocean Trade Network and the network of the Silk Roads. Both incredibly culturally and commercially diverse, in the period discussed, they would both become dominated by Muslim traders and rely heavily on Chinese products while being threatened by political agendas of relatively small powers. But vitally unlike the Silk Road, the Indian Ocean Network was never united under large stability encouraging empires and maintained comparative commercial neutrality up to 1450.

4. The comparison of many important trade routes that have developed throughout the world's history. Two of these routes were the Silk Road and the Trans-Saharan route. While they similarly spread things such as knowledge, religion (Buddhism and Christianity) and customs throughout the world, they also had some major differences. These differences included origin with Trans –Sahara going through Africa and the Silk Road running through China, Central Asia, and the Mediterranean. While the Trans-Saharan trade route naturally centered itself around the gold and salt trade, the Silk Road focused on things like Silk, tea, silver, and incense. Through their spread of knowledge and culture, although they are different, they have largely affected the world commerce and culture.

TURN PAPER OVER FOR THE REST OF THE RESPONSES!

5. Between the years of 600 CE and 1450 CE the Indian Ocean and the Silk Roads were very popular trading systems. They both allowed cultural diffusion to take place and for the spread of new ideas. However, different regions were always trying to take control of them which resulted in different goods being traded and constant conflict.

6. There were many trade networks between 600 and 1450 CE. Yet, two major ones were the Silk Roads and the Trans-Saharan trade routes. When comparing the silk roads and the trans-Saharan trade during this time period, there were many similarities and differences. One way in which they were similar is that they both spread religion. One way in which they were different is that the silk roads mostly consisted of textiles while the trans-sahara trade consisted mostly of resources.

7. From 600 CE to 1450 CE the Silk Roads and the Trans-Saharan trade networks allowed for long distance trade, however the Silk Roads spread mainly Christian and Hindu beliefs while the Trans-Saharan network mainly spread Islamic beliefs.

8. During the classical and post-classical eras, the amount of interregional trade in Afro-Eurasia grew exponentially. This led to extremely widespread exchange of ideas, goods, religions, and technologies. Two of these important networks were the Silk Road and the Indian Ocean. These two networks were similar in that they facilitated the widespread diffusion of new cultural ideas and universal religions such as Buddhism and Islam as well as a variety of valuable trade goods. However, they differed in that the Silk Road generally involved higher value goods than the Indian Ocean, and that the Silk Road depended more heavily on political stability. These differences were primarily due to the differing geography of the Silk Road and Indian Ocean

Staple your highlighted thesis statement to this paper.

Next step: Writing the first body paragraph!